AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

1) Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 8, lines 20-23 continuing on page 9, lines 1-7 as shown below:

In one embodiment, the channel evaluator 12 measures failures associated with any channel related resource per unit time. A channel ~~related~~ resource <u>device</u> may consist of any device used in a communication session, from the origination of the information to the final receipt of the information. In particular, a channel related resource may include a modem (in a pool of modems, for example), a codec, a modem bank station, an internal TI time-slot <u>interface device</u>, a Dynamic Shared Object (DSO) or other related internal entities used to process or be the destination for an incoming call. For example, dial tone generators, Dual Tone Multi-Frequency (DTMF) receivers and ringing generators may all be considered channel ~~related resources~~ <u>resource devices</u> as well as other PSTN 5 devices. A channel ~~related~~ <u>resource device</u> may also consist of one instance in a pool of devices or entities such as a modem, a codec, an internal time-slot, a DSO or other related entities used to process or be the destination of an outgoing call.

2) Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 11, lines 14-23 continuing on page 12, lines 1-6 as indicated below:

In one embodiment, those ~~resources~~ <u>channel resource devices</u> that have the highest failure rate per unit time are not is used or are used as a last resort, post-poning any call failures as much as possible. If the defective resources are used then some benefit is derived by postponing their use as the call success rate will be increased due to

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the higher number of successful calls before the defective resources are encountered. For example, if a single defective channel is present, all other channels are in use before the known "problem" channel is used (which cannot be blocked or **20** busied out). Thus, the maximum number of call successes 1s achieved. This, in turn, maximizes the call success rate given the defective channel. If the blocking or busy-out facility is available for this switch signaling protocol then the number of times the defective channel is attempted to be used is also minimized, lessening the possibility that the switch will "permanently" remove the corresponding switch channel from service. This method of resource selection (or post ponement) can be used in conjunction with other hunting algorithms. For instance, it can be used with basic hunting algorithms such as First Available or Next Available algorithms. The only modification is that if the per resource failure rate per unit time exceeds some threshold, then the usage of that resource is post-poned in favor of the "next" resources the base hunting algorithm (e.g., First Available, Next Available) would select.